



Iowa Heartland Resource Conservation & Development, Inc.

Warren County Administration Building
301 North Buxton Street
Indianola, IA 50125
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www.iowaheartlandrcd.org

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

September 1, 2016

**Iowa Heartland RC&D & Local Museums Hosting Museums Crawl
September 24 & 25, 2016**

Indianola, IA – As part of a USDA grant to build the capacity for the arts, history and humanities organizations, Iowa Heartland Resource, Conservation & Development, Inc. (IHRC&D), announced that in conjunction with 18 local museums and the Smithsonian Day Live!, a museums crawl will be held Saturday, September 24 and Sunday, September 25 from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm. A brochure is available online at iowaheartlandrcd.org, with more details and information. (Some hours and days open vary, so it's important to view the brochure.)

Visitors can develop their own itinerary over the two days, with most of the museums open free of charge. Many of the museums will also be offering snacks and beverages, including an ice cream social at Runnells on Sunday.

Participating museums include: Coal Ridge Church & Museum, Knoxville; Colfax Historical Society Museum, Colfax; Dexter Museum, Dexter; Forest Park Museum, Perry; GAR Lodge & Museum Iowa Fire Museum, Perry; Iowa Quilt Museum, Winterset; Jasper County Historical Museum, Newton; John Wayne Birthplace & Museum, Winterset; Madison County Historical Complex, Winterset; Marion County Historical Society, Knoxville; Melcher-Dallas Coal Mining & Heritage Museum, Melcher-Dallas; National Sprint Car Hall of Fame & Museum, Knoxville; Redfield Museum, Redfield; Runnells Historical Society, Runnells; Voas Museum, Minburn and Wagaman Mill & Museum, Lynnvile.

"It's amazing how diverse the participating museums are – from the Wagaman Mill, Forest Park Museum to the John Wayne Birthplace – all vividly illustrating the history of our small towns across the region. Many of these gems don't have normal hours of operation, so it's a unique opportunity to explore our past during this time.," according to Sheila Navis, Executive Director of IHRC&D.

In addition, visitors can pick up a "passport" to qualify in a drawing for an original piece of art from Iowa artist Laura Lengeling and a subscription to the Smithsonian magazine. See more details at iowaheartlandrcd.org.

The IHRC&D is a 501(c)(3) corporation serving the citizens residing in Dallas, Jasper, Madison, Marion, Polk and Warren counties for the purpose of improving the quality of life through economic development and resource conservation. Iowa Heartland RC&D activities this past year included efforts relating to establishing a Regional Cultural Council, building the capacity for arts, history and culture in the region, developing master plans for the expansion of the Central Iowa Trails and forest health activities.

For more information, contact:

Sheila Navis, CAE, Executive Director

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A museums crawl across Central Iowa...

Celebrate the history & culture of our small, rural communities; Share our heritage & history as we showcase 17 museums offering a look at our past.

2016 Museum Days Live!
September 24 & 25
10 am – 5 pm

Download a list of participating museums & information:
www.iowaheartlandrcd.org

Sponsored by Iowa Heartland Resource Conservation & Development, Inc.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Plan your own self-guided tour through Central Iowa as you explore the unique history of our rural communities!

...Brought to you by Iowa Heartland Resource Conservation & Development & the Regional Cultural Council, a grant from the USDA and the University of Iowa.

Here's some tips to plan your own excursion(s):

1. Museum Listings Designed to Maximize Your Tour. Participating museums are listed alphabetically, as well as by county. We've also included a map of Central Iowa showing locations to aid in your journey!

2. Times & Days Open. Most museums are open from 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday, September 24th and Sunday, September 25th. However, be sure to check the participating museum listing for exact times and dates. There are some variations!

3. Admission Fees & Complimentary Tickets. Many museums are free, but a few do charge admission. Note that in the museum listings it will specify if two complimentary adult tickets are available. If so, go to www.smithsonianmag.com and search for Museum Day Live! The tickets must be printed out or downloaded prior to admission to your visit. (Note: You are only able to download tickets for one museum.)

4. Get Your Passport Stamped & Win a Prize! Pick up your passport at any participating museum; visit a minimum of 3 museums on the 24th & 25th; complete a survey; and enter to win an original watercolor by Iowa artist Laura Lengeling and a subscription to the Smithsonian magazine!

5. For More Information. Visit the various websites/Facebook page for each museum or go to www.iowaheartlandrcd.org to download the brochure.

Iowa Heartland RC&D | Regional Cultural Council

Ken Barthelman | Jasper Co. Historical Museum | Newton
Cheri Doane | Central College | Pella
Linda Klepinger | Centre for Arts & Artists | Newton
Kevin Lair | Westbrook Artists' Site/ISU Instructor | Winterset
Pete Malmberg | Dallas Co. Conservation | Perry
Butch Niebuhr | Retired City Manager | Perry
Chris Nolte | Madison Co. Health Care System | Winterset

The Iowa Heartland RC&D is a 501(c)(3) corporation serving the citizens of Dallas, Jasper, Madison, Marion, Polk and Warren counties for the purpose of improving the quality of life through economic development and resource conservation.

Iowa Heartland RC&D Officers & Board of Directors

Gay Lea Wilson, President	Denny Carpenter
Keith Sparks, Vice President	Bob Duff
Doug Shull, Secretary/Treasurer	Lori Foresman-Kirpes
Craig Agan	

Sheila Navis, CAE

Iowa Heartland RC&D Executive Director

For more information, visit www.iowaheartlandrcd.org.



PARTICIPATING MUSEUMS

- 13 Coal Ridge Church & Museum
- 7 Colfax Historical Society Museum
- 1 Dexter Museum
- 2 Forest Park Museum
- 3 GAR Lodge & Museum
- 4 Iowa Fire Museum
- 10 Iowa Quilt Museum
- 8 Jasper County Historical Museum
- 11 John Wayne Birthplace & Museum
- 12 Madison County Historical Complex
- 14 Marion County Historical Society
- 16 Melcher-Dallas Coal Mining & Heritage Museum
- 15 National Sprint Car Hall of Fame & Museum
- 5 Redfield Museum
- 17 Runnells Historical Society
- 6 Voas Museum
- 9 Wagaman Mill & Museum



DALLAS COUNTY

Dexter Museum (1)
725 Marshall Street
Dexter, IA 50070
www.dexteriowa.org

The Dexter Fall Festival is on the 24th - adding to this year’s museum tour! A program on the White Pole Road is scheduled at 1:30, with exhibits highlighting the Bonnie & Clyde and the Dexfield Park Shootout, Harry Truman’s visit to Dexter in 1948 and the Old Dexfield Amusement Park that opened in 1915. Hours: Saturday 10 – 5 | Sunday 12 noon – 3 pm. No admission fee.

Forest Park Museum & Arboretum (2)
14581 K Avenue
Perry, IA 50220
www.co.dallas.ia.us/Parks

The original 5 acre plot was developed in the 1940’s by Eugene Hastie – farmer, author and local historian. The museum opened to the public in 1953 and features the electric Dynamo, believed by some to be a perpetual motion machine. Three new exhibits will be showcased. 10 m – 5 pm Saturday & Sunday. No admission fee.

Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Lodge & Museum (3)
1213 Thomas Street
Redfield, IA 50233
www.co.dallas.ia.us/Parks

The GAR Lodge is the only remaining building on its original site in Redfield. A devastating fire in 1900 leveled the entire block, other than the Lodge. It has been restored to its 1880’s appearance. 10 am – 5 pm Saturday & Sunday. No admission fee.

The Iowa Fire Museum & Fire Prevention Education Center (4)
1122 2nd Street
Perry, IA 50220
Facebook – Iowa Fire Museum

The museum collection spans over 5 generations of the Reynolds/Eiteman family (1889-present), with the largest collection of pre-1915 pictures from the Iowa Firefighters Association conventions. No admission fee.

Redfield Historical Museum (5)
814 First Street
Redfield, IA
www.redfieldia.com

The museum preserves the history of one of the oldest and most colorful towns in Dallas County. Originally known as New Ireland, the community became famous for its high quality brick and tile production and for a unique natural cliff along the Racoon River known as Hanging Rock. Stories of the colorful brick yard workers and many other events that took place in this unique part of Iowa are featured. No admission fee.

Voas Museum (6)
19286 Lexington Road
Minburn, IA 50167
www.co.dallas.ia.us/Parks

Features displays of rocks, fossils and minerals from around the world. Rare native elements, great quartz specimens are featured. 10 am – 5 pm Saturday & Sunday. No admission fee.

JASPER COUNTY

Colfax Historical Society Museum (7)
900 North Walnut Street
Colfax, IA 50054
Facebook – Colfax Historical Society & Museum

Take a step back in time when Colfax was known for its mineral springs, water, hotels and coal mines. See the antique souvenir collections of mineral water, “resort” hotels, bottles and more. Also featured is a coal mine exhibit and “close-to-nature” exhibit that later turned into the Monroe Table Company. No admission fee, but will accept free-will donations. Open Sunday Only – 10 am – 5 pm.

Jasper County Historical Museum (8)
1700 South 11th Avenue West
Newton, IA 50208
www.jaspercounty museum.com

“Best small museum in the country” according to a recent visitor. The museum has the best in- depth industrial history of the “washing machine center of the world.” No admission fee THIS WEEKEND ONLY, but will accept free-will donations.

Wagaman Mill & Museum (9)
200 East Street
Lynnville, IA 50153
www.lshawks.org/community/newsletters

See hands-on demonstrations at an historic mill. Features a working wheel and turbine. No admission fee, but will accept free-will donations.

MADISON COUNTY

Iowa Quilt Museum (10)
68 East Court
Winterset, IA 50273
www.iowaquiltmuseum.org

The Iowa Quilt Museum is the only museum in the state that is dedicated solely to the American Quilt and the art of quilting. Two complimentary adult tickets can be obtained by going to www.smithsonianmag.com and search for Museum Day Live!, with normal admission of \$6 for adults, \$4 children 3-12.

John Wayne Birthplace & Museum (11)
205 S. John Wayne Drive
Winterset, IA 50273
www.johnwaynebirthplace.museum

Only museum in the country celebrating the life and movies of legendary film star John Wayne. Brief presentations will be made by Brian Downs, formally with the Chicago Tribune who interviewed John Wayne and helped develop the museum. Admission is Adults \$15 | Seniors \$14 | Children (8 – 12) \$8 | Children 7 & younger free.

Madison County Historical Complex (12)
815 South 2nd Avenue
Winterset, IA 50273
www.historyonthehill.org

Established in 1904, the complex has evolved into an 18 acre site, with 14 buildings. The crown jewel is the 1856 Bevington-Kaser House. A vast array of collections are on display. Two complimentary adult tickets can be obtained by going to www.smithsonianmag.com and search for Museum Day Live! Free admission on Saturday, with normal admission of Museum/\$3; House/\$3; Combo/\$5 on Sunday. Hours: Saturday – 11 am to 4 pm | Sunday – 1 pm to 5 pm.

MARION COUNTY

Coal Ridge Church & Museum (13)
1034 IA S71
Knoxville, IA 50138
www.redrockarea.com

Music will be played on the antique pump organ and the church piano at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., provided by Dr. Davis Folkerts. An oral history of Coal Ridge (the lost village) and the church/ museum will be given by Eunice Folkerts, with a complimentary booklet is available. The church building (on the National Register of Historic Places) is unaltered since it was built more than 105 years ago and displays pictures and scrap books documenting its story.

Marion County Historical Society (14)
Marion County Park
306 Willets Drive
Knoxville, IA 50138
Facebook – Marion County Historical Society, Knoxville, IA

Tour the museum building as well as an original school house, church, stage coach inn, log cabin, depot and replica of a general store. Period craft demonstrations will be featured. No admission fee for the tour. Free-will donations accepted.

Melcher-Dallas Coal Mining & Heritage Museum (16)
101 NE Center (entrance on Main St)
Melcher-Dallas, IA 50163
Facebook – Melcher-Dallas Coal Mining Msm

Features a coal mining shaft, with museum celebrating the heritage of area. No admission fee.

National Sprint Car Hall of Fame (15)
1 Sprint Capital Place
Knoxville, IA 50138
www.sprintcarhof.com

Learn about all things relating to sprint car racing! Two complimentary adult tickets can be obtained by going to www.smithsonianmag.com and search for Museum Day Live!, with normal admission to Museum of \$. Hours: Saturday – 8 am to 6 pm | Sunday – 12 noon to 5 pm.

POLK COUNTY

Runnells Historical Society (17)
201 Brown Street
Runnells, IA 50237
Facebook – Runnells Historical Society

Located in a century old church, this building has served as a landmark in this community for years and now houses the museum. Open both Saturday and Sunday, with an ICE CREAM SOCIAL on Sunday, 1 – 4 pm. No admission fee.



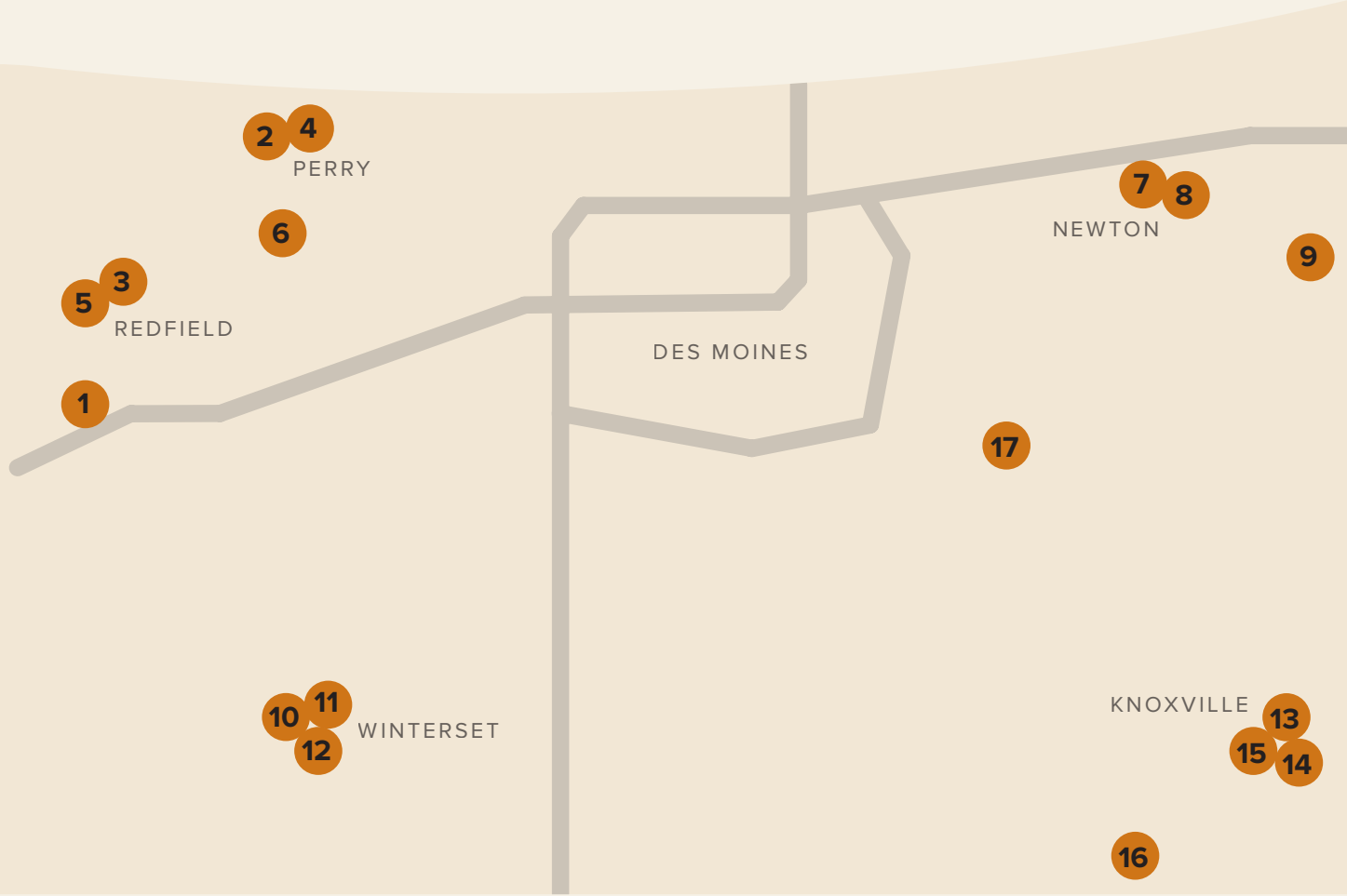
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